

Message Text

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71

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CPR-02 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 DRC-01 /101 W

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R 202007Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9515

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS--ROMANIAN HUNGER STRIKER HOSPITALIZED
IN GRAVE CONDITION

REF: USUN 3312

1. BEGINNING SEPT 18 POPESCU, ROMANIAN REFUGEE STAGING HUNGER STRIKE OUTSIDE UN, BEGAN TO COMPLAIN OF CHEST PAINS. FOLLOWING DAY SEPT 19 ROMANIAN PRIEST CALLED DOCTOR WHO FOUND POPESCU'S HEART ACTION ARRHYTHMIC AND FAST BUT HUNGER STRIKER REFUSED HOSPITALIZATION. SEPT 19 FOUND HIM TOO WEAK TO MOVE, WITH CHEST PAINS BECOMING MORE ACUTE. PRIEST, ASSISTED BY NYC POLICE, THEN TOOK POPESCU IN HIS CAR TO JEWISH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WHERE HE IS REPORTED IN GRAVE CONDITION AND BEING FED INTRAVENOUSLY. HEART CONDITION ALMOST CERTAINLY BROUGHT ON BY PROLONGED FASTING.

2. FURTHER US PRESS COVERAGE LIKELY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE BROADCAST ON SUBJECT CERTAIN. DEPT MAY WISH INFORM ROMANIAN EMBASSY THIS DEVELOPMENT AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER GOR HAS ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED IMPLICATIONS OF POPESCU'S HUNGER STRIKE AND POSSIBLE DEATH OF ROMANIA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE IN GENERAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN03323
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730920/aaaaaonx.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 3312
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <12-Oct-2001 by thigpegh, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <10-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS--ROMANIAN HUNGER STRIKER HOSPITALIZED IN GRAVE CONDITION
TAGS: SGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005